Appl. No. 09/675,532
Amdt. dated January 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of improving the configuration of a computer system, comprising:

(a)   determining the current configuration of the computer system, said configuration including hardware and software component information, the information including version information;

(b)   determining an overall problem index value associated with the current configuration, said overall problem index value providing a relative indication of the problems in the computer system;

(c)   varying the configuration of the computer system; and

(d)   determining an overall problem index value for the configuration as varied in (c).

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further including:

(e)   repeating (c) and (d) and selecting the configuration that has the lowest overall problem index value.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 further including recommending that a user reconfigure the system to match the configuration selected in (e).

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein (c) includes varying the version of each software application in the configuration determined in (a).

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein (c) includes varying the version of each software application in the configuration determined in (a).

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein (c) does not include varying the version of the hardware components.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein (b) and (d) includes selecting individual problem index values from a knowledge base.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 further including adding together said individual problem index values to determine said overall problem index value for the configuration.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said overall problem index value is an indication of the number of problems associated with said configuration.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said overall problem index value is an indication of the severity of problems associated with said configuration.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said overall problem index value is an indication of the number of problems and the severity of the problems associated with said configuration.

12.   (Previously presented) A computer system, comprising:
        a configuration management module;
        a knowledge base that interacts with said configuration management module; and
        said configuration management module receives a current configuration of the computer system, determines an overall problem index value associated with the current configuration, and determines a configuration that has fewer problems than the current configuration.

13.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the configuration management module further varies the configuration of the

computer system to produce a new configuration and determines an overall problem index value for the new configuration.

14.   (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said configuration management module selects the configuration that has the lowest overall problem index value.

15.   (Original) The computer system of claim 14 wherein said configuration management module recommends that a user reconfigure the system to match the configuration selected as having the lowest overall problem index value.

16.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the configuration includes software and wherein said configuration management module varies the version of each software application in the configuration.

17.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the configuration includes software and wherein said configuration management module varies the version of each software application in the configuration.

18.   (Original) The computer system of claim 17 wherein said configuration management module varies does not vary the version of the hardware components.

19.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein said configuration management module determines the overall problem index value by selecting individual problem index values from a knowledge base.

20.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein said configuration management module adds together said individual problem index values to determine said overall problem index value for the configuration.

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21.   (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said overall problem index value is an indication of the number of problems associated with said configuration.

22.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein said overall problem index value is an indication of the severity of problems associated with said configuration.

23.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein said overall problem index value is an indication of the number of problems and the severity of the problems associated with said configuration.

24.   (Original) The computer system of claim 12 wherein said knowledge base includes a collection of problems that have been identified for various hardware or software components.

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PAGE 8/11 * RCVD AT 1/28/2005 3:34:30 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:7132388008 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-14